

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Essex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Third Essex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.7% (2,007) reside in the Third Essex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (381) of Third Essex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 73.8% of admissions from the Third Essex Senatorial District were male and 26.2% were female.
- Over 58.3% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 85.4% of admissions were white non-Latino, 1.9% were black non-Latino, 10.1% were Latino, 0.2% were Asians, and 2.5% were other racial categories.
- 59.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.4% were married, and 15.9% reported not to be married now.
- 29.5% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.9% completed high school, and 19.6% had more than high school education.
- 39.3% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 9.4% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.9% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

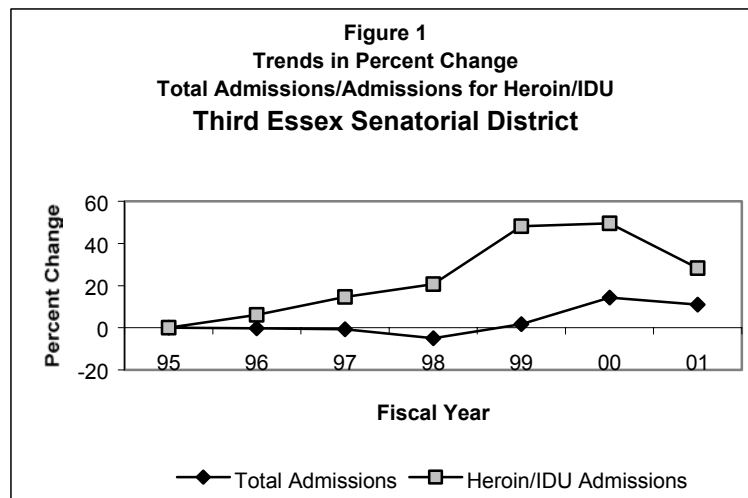
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Third Essex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Abuse FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Third Essex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,809	1,388	536	507	385	542	394
FY '96	1,803	1,410	542	450	358	579	414
FY '97	1,795	1,332	515	369	275	608	465
FY '98	1,719	1,251	508	361	229	643	487
FY '99	1,841	1,303	548	476	311	786	601
FY '00	2,067	1,477	593	464	320	802	598
FY '01	2,007	1,438	563	398	196	705	495

- Since dropping in FY 1998, residents of Third Essex Senatorial District reported a slight rise in alcohol and marijuana use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use increased by 30%, while cocaine and crack use decreased by 21% and 49%, respectively.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Third Essex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 11% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 28%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Essex Senatorial District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	47.4%	32.6%	10.9%	2.9%	2.3%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was lower than the State average, marijuana as a primary drug was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute of Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000